Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 5, as follows:

-- This is a divisional application of patent application serial no. 10/177,580, filed June 24, 2002, which is a continuation application of International patent application PCT/EP 00/13148, filed Dec. 22, 2000, and claiming priority of U. S. provisional application 60/173,523, filed Dec. 29, 1999, and German applications 100 02 626.5 and ~~100 21 735.7~~ 100 21 739.7, filed January 22, 2000 and May 4, 2000, respectively, all incorporated herein by reference. --

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 27, as follows:

-- ~~European patent publication 0 851 304~~ United States Patent 6,104,472 discloses the adjacent mounting of aspheric lens surfaces in a projection objective. These aspheric lenses are supported so as to be displaceable in the radial direction. The projection objective is matched via the relative movement of the lenses. The aspheric lens surfaces are especially rotationally unsymmetrical because of the possibility of displacing the aspheres in radial direction with respect to each other. Because of the movable support of the aspheric lenses, this arrangement is not suitable for every projection objective because projection objectives designed especially for short wavelengths react sensitively to the smallest position change of the individual lenses. Accordingly, the position stability, which is achievable because of the special support of the lenses, is not

sufficient in order to reliably ensure a good imaging quality. --

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 3, line 5, as follows:

-- United States Patent 5,559,584 discloses introducing a protective gas into the intermediate spaces between a wafer and/or a reticle and the projection objective in a projection exposure system for manufacturing microstructured components. --

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 4, line 27, as follows:

-- Furthermore, it has been shown to be advantageous to provide aspheric lens surfaces as aspheric lens surfaces of the double asphere. The ~~radius~~ radii of the aspheric lens surfaces of the best-fitting spherical lens surface (identified as the profile radius) differ very little. Preferably, the reciprocal values of the profile radius or radii of the double aspheres deviate less than 30% from each other. As a reference value, the reciprocal value of the larger radius in magnitude is applied. --

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 12, line 4, as follows:

-- The third lens group includes the lenses L208 to ~~L21~~ L212. With this lens group G3, a convex form is provided. The lens L211 is made aspheric on the image end lens surface. --